(2) The concessions granted in respect of *poramboke* lands on the banks of rivers and canals in the Neyyattinkara taluk should be extended to similar lands in the Minachil taluk.

(3) The inspection of *porambokes* should be done by the Tahsildar himself.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Kuriakose Chacko, the question of encroachments of lands in river beds is one I have always found difficult. Because it so often happens that river beds advance or recede giving rise to lands beyond the demarcation stones. The suggestions that you have now made will be taken up and considered.

10. Registry of lands in the Devicolam Taluk.

MR. E. RAMAN TAMPI (*Member, Devicolam taluk*) said that cardamom cultivation had flourished in the Devicolam taluk from time immemorial. The spice was an article of Government monopoly till about the year 1070. In 1072, the cardamom growing area, *viz.*, the Cardamom Hills Reserve, was constituted into a reserved forest under the Forest Regulation. Nevertheless, from 1080 onwards, lands continued to be granted to the public for cardamom cultivation till 1096, when, for reasons unknown to the public, the Government issued an order prohibiting further registry of lands in the reserve. In issuing that order, the Government ignored the fact that the boundaries of the reserve had not been properly demarcated. As a result thereof many encroachment cases were taken up against cardamom ryots, irrespective of their *bona fide* occupation. That was a source of unnecessary trouble to the Revenue authorities and of hardship and inconvenience to the ryots.

Unlike coffee or tea cultivation, which required extensive clearing, cardamom cultivation could be carried on without any harm to the forest trees and forests. Cardamom cultivation could be made popular by a more liberal policy of registering *puduval* lands. For, it required but small capital and even a poor peasant could go in for it. For a long time past, only non-Travancoreans were engage in the cultivation of cardamoms, and it was only recently that Travancoreans had evinced an interest in the matter and realised the advantages of its cultivation. But the prohibitory order of 1096 had discouraged them in their enterprise.

By encouraging the cardamom industry, the Government would be indirectly promoting local enterprise in tea cultivation. From a cardamom estate run for ten years, a person could earn sufficient capital to open a small tea estate. Cardamom gardens could also be easily converted into tea estates but the reverse was impossible.

In view of the foregoing, the member prayed for the cancellation of the prohibitory order of 1096.

His next suggestion was that the *taravila* on cardamom lands should not be increased. All the existing cardamom growers were non-Travancoreans, and if the *taravila* be enhanced, Travancoreans would be obliged to give up the enterprise.

The member's next suggestion related to the amendment of the existing Cardamom Rules. Those rules were applicable only to lands within the Cardamom Hills Reserve. There were other lands suitable for cardamom cultivation situated outside the reserve. In view to enable registry of such lands as well, the Cardamom Rules should be amended ; but the existing rate of *taravila viz.*, Bh. Rs. 25 an acre, should be maintained.

Besides areas suitable for cardamom cultivation, there were other vast extents of grass land both inside and outside the Cardamom Hills Reserve. Those lands could, with advantage, be assigned for coffee or tea cultivation, if and when the prohibitory order was cancelled.

The member's last suggestion was about the assignment of house-sites on permanent registry from the Devicolam Cutcherry *poramboke*. Though it comprised a large area people were experiencing difficulty in getting lands registered for house-sites. For the development of the town, it was very necessary to afford every facility to the people to put up permanent buildings for habitation. That could be done only if house-sites were assigned on permanent registry.

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DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Raman Tampi, the question of throwing open forest lands in the Cardamom Hills area, with certain restrictions, is under the consideration of the Government and the Land Revenue Commissioner has been asked to draft rules. Of course, it will not apply to all forest lands. The Government themselves are anxious to throw open some lands for this purpose.

In regard to the Cutcherry compound area at Devicolam, as you know, that land was specially reserved for buildings for Government offices. A plot of 10 acres has been leased out for house-sites in blocks of 40 cents. But I am afraid it will not be possible to give up these lands otherwise than on leasehold tenure.

The Assembly adjourned for lunch at 1-30 P. M. and met again at 2-15 P. M.

11. Registry of Puduval lands in the Peermade taluk.

MR. O. P. ANANTANARAYANA AIYAR (*Member, Peermade taluk*) spoke about the difficulties experienced by the poor people in getting lands registered in the Peermade taluk. Poor people from other parts of the country applied for registry of lands and settled on them in the hope of getting them registered. The lands were also surveyed at their cost. But after survey the lands were sold in auction under the rules. The poor could not compete with the rich in an auction sale, with the result the latter always got the lands applied for and improved by the former who went without them. Not only that, they were sometimes convicted under the Land Conservancy Regulation. To remedy this evil, the member suggested that, when a piece of land was found to be available for registry, the Tahsildar should fix a suitable price for the land ; and only if the applicant agreed to accept the land for that price, should he be asked to deposit the probable cost of surveying the lands. The *taravila* fixed should be recovered at the time of issue of *patta*. Such a procedure would attract settlers from other parts of Travancore. There would not then be the scarcity of labour now felt by the Public Works Department and the estate owners. Peermade would also develop into a large town and the necessity to continue the grant of hill allowance to Government officers would cease.

The member next urged the need for registering lands lying on both sides of the Kottayam-Kumili Road, between the 43rd and the 70th miles. About twenty years ago, the tract between Kumili and Kanjirapalli was a dense forest. Subsequent to the Settlement of 1083, the lands between Kanjirapalli and the 35th mile on the Kottayam-Kumili road were assigned and those portions had been opened up. The area between the 35th and 43rd milestones, belonging to the Vanjipuzha Chief, had also been assigned and people had begun to settle there. With the growth of human habitations, the wild animals in the locality were forced to retire into uninhabited places beyond the 43rd mile. The lands there were thus subject to the ravages of wild animals. Cattle very often formed the prey of the wild animals and wild elephants roamed at large. It was therefore necessary to register the lands on both sides of the road, beginning from the 43rd mile in small blocks.

The next point of the member's representation was the re-assignment of cardamom lands bought in for Government at auction sales conducted under the Revenue Recovery Regulation. The Revenue authorities had recommended the sale of the lands in auction. The member could not understand how the lands, which once failed to fetch a price equivalent to the tax at Bh. Rs. 2 an acre could fetch more than Rs. 25 per acre. The rules did not permit auction sales, and consequently, applications for registry of such lands from 1100 onwards were pending. The Government were thus losing the tax for three years which they could have realised by assignment without auction. The lands should therefore be registered in the names of *bona fide* applicants *without* auction.

Lastly, he deprecated the practice of auctioning a piece of land for arrears of tax, at a place away from the locality of the land. The practice prevented intending purchasers from bidding at the time of auction. He, therefore, suggested that it should be stopped and requested the Government to insist that such sales should be conducted either at the spot or at the Taluk headquarters.

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